

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 596 - HB 837

March 12, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enhances the penalty, from a Class C misdemeanor to a Class B misdemeanor, for any person who publishes or distributes or causes to be published or distributed any campaign literature in opposition to any candidate in any election if such person knows that any such statement, charge, allegation, or other matter contained therein with respect to such candidate is false.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-35-111(e), a class C misdemeanor is punishable by either no greater than 30 days in jail, or a fine not to exceed \$50, or a combination of both; a class B misdemeanor is punishable by either no greater than 6 months in jail, or a fine not to exceed \$500, or a combination of both.
- It is unknown how many violations have occurred pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-19-142; however, there will not be a sufficient change in the number of prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant change in revenue or expenditures.
- Any impact resulting from the enhanced penalty is not expected to generate any significant additional fine revenue or result in any significant increase in local incarceration costs.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner".

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jdb

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